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MY PUBLIC STATEMENT

I, TEO CHYE HIONG, was born in Singapore and am 34 years old. I have engaged in pro-Communist activities since 1954, and was arrested on 28.10.1966. Since my arrest, I have soberly considered my past life and the political and economic situation in Singapore. I have discovered to my shame that I had allowed myself to be misled and exploited by pro-Communist and Communist elements into doing actions which are harmful to the people and the State of Singapore. I make this Statement in the hope that other people will have their eyes opened to the evil Communist threat in our midst.

2. I come from a poor family. When I was in Tuan Mong School, I worked diligently and my results were not bad. In 1954, however, the Communists incited Chinese middle school students to oppose the National Service Ordinance. I was then 18 years old, and eligible for civil defence training. FONG LAI WAH, a pro-Communist classmate, persuaded me to take part in a camp-in launched by the pro-Communist student Delegation for Exemption from National Service, because, he alleged, the British imperialists were sending students to be cannon fodder. Without thinking, I took part in the camp-in at Chinese High School. I was put in a group of over 20 students; under the leadership of TAN KOK SIM, we studied the May 13th Incident and the political situation at home and abroad. We also sang Communist songs like "Unity is Strength", "Do not be soldiers", "May 13 Song", "What Does Imprisonment matter?".

3. In July/August that year, after the camp-in had ended, FONG LAI WAH recommended me to join a secret cell because of my 'bravery' during the camp-in. He ordered me not to tell anyone about the cell as it was secret. The cell was composed of 4 members: FONG LAI WAH (cell leader), ONG KAH LAI, THAI WAH HENG and I. We met at ONG's house twice weekly to study 'Philosophy of Life', 'The Purpose of Studies', 'May 13 Incident', and so on.

4. At the end of 1954, CHEW LEE MENG, a pro-Communist student, told me that internationally, students had the right to apply for exemption from National Service. He told me not to register for National Service. Misguided by his propaganda and deception, I refused to report for National Service. I was prosecuted and jailed for 4 months.

5. In September 1956, the Communists set up the Singapore Chinese Middle School Students' Union and later launched the 'September 26' camp-in. I took part in the camp-in at Chung Cheng High School. As I wasted most of my time on pro-Communist activities, I neglected my studies and failed the Senior Middle III Examination in 1957. Without qualifications I could not get a job.

6. In early 1958, a pro-Communist ex-schoolmate of mine, CHUA WEE NEI, introduced me to KANG WOON LIM, an official of the Singapore General Employees' Union, on whose recommendation I kept accounts and attended to some Union affairs, without pay. A few months later, CHUA was arrested for subversive activities and I took over the accounts. However, it was only in 1961 that KANG WOON LIM told me he was

satisfied with my work in the SGEU and that he fully trusted me as I had been active in pro-Communist activities during my high school days. He made a recommendation to the Executive Committee that I should be appointed a Paid Official. Shortly afterwards, the SGEU Chairman, TAN TECK WAH, informed me that the SGEU had agreed to appoint me as Paid Official. Although I had worked faithfully for the Communists for many years, they were only willing to exploit me for my labour and never really trusted me. I thus realised how difficult and how many years it takes to gain the trust of the pro-Communists. They live in a world of distrust.

7. After the SGEU was de-registered for pro-Communist subversive activities in October 1963, TEO SHAW BOEY, Chairman of the pro-Communist Amalgamated Malayan Pineapple Workers' Union, invited me to become Paid Secretary of his union, because their Paid Secretary, ANG KOON PENG, had been detained on 2.2.63. I agreed to take the job, and embarked on a series of pro-Communist acts detrimental to the security of Singapore.

8. In early 1964, the Government announced plans for National Service. LEE PENG LIN, Chairman of the pro-Communist Singapore Commercial House & Factory Employees' Union, initiated a delegates meeting of 30 pro-Communist unions. Attending the meeting as a representative of the AMPWU, I endorsed the plan to carry out anti-National Service activities. A Working Sub-Committee running these activities was set up, with LEE PENG LIN and other pro-Communists as its officials. In 1965, I took part in an illegal May Day demonstration in Jalan Besar.

9. In 1966, CHUA AH CHIK, LAI CHOY KOON and others in the Trade Union Sub-Committee dealing with the Trade Unions (Amendment) Ordinance planned the presentation of a petition to the Ministry of Labour. At a delegates meeting, I instigated the workers to protest against the Government. As a result of the unrest created by the agitation of Communist United Front organisations on various issues, the Government arrested a number of the persons responsible, including myself.

10. When I first entered prison, life was not too bad. We learnt Chinese pugilism, played draughts, or read newspapers and books. I also planted flowers and vegetables. At night, we watched television. Later on, we elected a Livelihood Committee comprising LIM CHIN SIONG, TOH CHENG KAH and LAI SEN CHONG, to look after our daily supply of food, drinks, newspapers and other things. This Committee, however, soon began to dominate our very lives. Hunger strikes were organised on May Day and other 'special' days. In May 1967, despite there being more than enough food to eat every day, we demanded better food and living conditions. When our demands were not met, we went on a hunger strike. There was tremendous tension amongst the detainees and quarrels broke out. Thus, we wasted more and more of our time on hunger strikes over trivial things, or on quarrelling with each other.

11. From my years of experience in the pro-Communist trade unions and from my personal observations in prison, I can no longer subscribe to the Communist ideology. The Communist United Front elements are controlling and using pro-Communist unions to carry out anti-Government subversive activities to achieve their political plots, regardless of the workers' interests. Often, for no valid reasons, they launched illegal strikes and demonstrations, causing suffering to the workers. I am disillusioned with their promises of freedom, equality and brotherhood.

The Czechs have had their freedom taken away by their Soviet 'brothers'. The Communist United Front leaders I have met are certainly better off than their blind followers - even when they are in prison! Also, anyone can see that the Russian, Chinese and other Communist leaders are better dressed, better fed and much better off than the common people, their so-called 'comrades'. And at a time when the people of Singapore are fighting for their economic survival, the Communists are calling for 'extra-Parliamentary struggle', and possibly armed struggle, which would wreck the economy and put thousands out of job. This is madness! I now want to turn away from such madness and lead a peaceful and more productive life in Singapore.

TEO CHYE HIONG

28.10.1968